

Listing and Amendments to the Claims:

10/577790
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of inducing gamete maturation to be competent to fertilise in marine worms of the family *Arenicolidae* which exhibit epidemic spawning, said method comprising: providing maturing male and/or female worms in a housing substrate in sea water at a temperature of 4 to 8°C for a time period of 14 to 24 days.
2. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the worms are maintained at a temperature of 5 to 7°C for 20 to 22 days.
3. (Currently amended) A method for inducing spawning of marine worms of the family *Arenicolidae* which exhibit epidemic spawning, said method comprising inducing gamete maturation by the method of ~~either one of Claims 1 and 2~~ Claim 1, and further comprising exposing the worms to a hormone able to induce gamete release.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein said worms are male worms and said hormone is 8, 11, 14-eicosatrienoic acid.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein said worms are female worms and said hormone is provided as an homogenate of prostomium.
6. (Currently amended) A method for inducing spawning of marine worms of the family *Arenicolidae* and which exhibit epidemic spawning, said method comprising inducing gamete maturation by the method of ~~either one of Claims 1 and 2~~ Claim 1, and further including raising the temperature of the sea water to 12 to 14°C.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the temperature of the sea water is increased at a rate of 1°C per hour to 12 to 14°C.

8. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1 wherein said marine worms are *Arenicolidae* marina or *Arenicola defadiens*.

9. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1 wherein said substrate is sand.

10. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1 wherein said marine worms are cultured worms which have previously been maintained at a temperature of 14 to 16°C for at least one month.